

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SEC-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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R 130905Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6892

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 2205

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, US, JA

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED SCANDAL: FEB 13 PRESS COVERAGE

1. LOCKHEED SCANDAL HAS CONTINUED TO DOMINATE NEWS
WITH FOLLOWING MAJOR THEMES.

2. US HOLDING BACK INFORMATION. ALTHOUGH OCCURRING
TOO LATE FOR MORNING PAPERS, SECSTATE PRESS CONFERENCE
DREW INTENSE FRIDAY AM RADIO AND TV COVERAGE FOCUSING
ON STATEMENT THAT HE HAD ASKED CHURCH COMMITTEE TO
EXERCISE CAUTION IN DEALING WITH INFORMATION WHICH
MIGHT AFFECT FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THIS FOLLOWED
REPORTS THURSDAY MORNING THAT SECSTATE HAD EARLIER TOLD
DISTRICT COURT THROUGH ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT NAMES
SHOULD BE WITHHELD BECAUSE OF THE AFFECT ON FOREIGN
RELATIONS. PRESS STRESSED THAT DISTRICT COURT
REQUEST FOR SECSTATE VIEWS HAD COME IN RESPONSE TO
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A REQUEST FOR A COURT ORDER BY LOCKHEED WHICH WAS

REPRESENTED BY FORMER SECSTATE ROGERS. TV AND RADIO ALSO GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO PRESS CONFERENCE BY RETURNING KOMEITO DIET MAN KUROYANAGI WHO ASSERTED STRONG IMPRESSION THAT CHURCH COMMITTEE HAD NAMES OF GOJ OFFICIALS WAS HOLDING BACK BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM EITHER STATE DEPT OR GOJ.

3. GOJ WILL PRESS FOR FULL DISCUOSURE. IN WHAT PRESS CHARACTERIZED AS UNPRECEDENTED STEP, NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HAJIME FUKUDA (NO RELATION TO DEPUTY PRIMIN) CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER THURSDAY TO REPORTEDLY STRESS NEED FOR GOJ TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO GET FULL FACTS ON LOCKHEED SCANDAL. MIKI REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED COMPLETE AGREEMENT. THIS FOLLOWED SAME LINE TAKEN BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IN WELL-PUBLICIZED PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEB 11, AND BY LDP SECRETARY GENERAL NAKASONE ON THURSDAY. ASAHI REPORTED THAT UNNAMED MIKI SUPPORTERS WERE DISSATISFIED WITH VIGOR OF FOREIGN OFFICE EFFORT TO OBTAIN FACTS AND CONCERNED THAT FAILURE TO CLEAR UP MATTER PROMPTLY WOULD DAMAGE US-JAPAN RELATIONS.

4. KODAMA AND OSANO. FACT THAT KODAMA HAS BEEN HOLED UP IN HIS TOKYO RESIDENCE WAS REVEALED WHEN HIS DOCTOR HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AND REPORTED THAT, AS A RESULT OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, HE HAD DETERMINED THAT KODAMA WAS TOO ILL TO TESTIFY BEFORE DIET. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT OSANO SNEAKED BACK INTO OSAKA VIA KOREA ON THURSDAY TO AVOID PRESS ONSLAUGHT AT TOKYO.

5. DEFENSE COOPERATION. ASAHI REPORTED THAT JDA OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT SCANDAL MAY DELAY ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION FORUM. REPORTED REASONING IS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN P-3, AND JAPANESE ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE REPORT WHICH IS TO BE ONE OF FOCAL POINTS OF NEW DEFENSE COOPERATON FORUM. UNNAMED JDA SOURCES NOTE THAT IT WOULD TAKE FROM 5 TO 10 YEARS FOR JAPAN TO DEVELOP ITS OWN ASW AIRCRAFT AND THAT SCANDAL MAY UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCE JDA TO START FROM A QTE CLEAN SLATE UNQUOTE ON CHOICE OF NEW AIRCRAFT.

6. SUPPORT FOR KUBO. FORMER JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL MASUHARA SUPPORTED JDA VICE MINISTER KUBO'S CONTENTION THAT JDA HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED ON 1972 NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL ACTION REVERSING EARLIER DECISION IN FAVOR OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF ASW AIRCRAFT. ON CRITICAL

POINT, HOWEVER, HE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIAL
ROLE BY THEN PRIME MINISTER TANAKA IN TURNABOUT WHICH
HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE QTE TIDE UNQTE THEN FAVORING
COOPERATION WITH US DEFENSE OF DOLLAR. MASUHARA
REPORTEDLY SAID HE SAW NOTHING SUSPICIOUS IN MATTER
AND BOTH HE AND JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL SAKATA AGREED
THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED AT THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL.

7. A FONOFF SOURCE WAS QUOTED BY ASAHI AS SAYING THAT GOJ
INTENDED TO MAKE PUBLIC ALL INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE US
SIDE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC HCNANELS, INCLUDING BOTH OFFICIAL
PARTS OF THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE TRANSCRIPTS AS WELL AS UNOFFICIAL
INFORMATION.
HODGSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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